

November 17, 2005

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: DM 05-172 Generic Investigation into Utility Poles

Dear Ms. Howland:

As you know, a pre-hearing conference and technical session were held in the above-referenced docket on Thursday, November 10, 2005. Please treat this letter as Staff's report of the technical session.

Participating in the technical session along with Staff were representatives of Verizon New Hampshire; Public Service Company of New Hampshire; Granite State Electric d/b/a National Grid-New Hampshire; Unitil Service Corporation; the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; The Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire; City of Rochester; City of Concord; Town of Hampton; the municipalities of Exeter, Hanover, Keene, Newmarket, Portsmouth, Raymond, Salem, Seabrook and Stratham; George E. Sansoucy, PE LLC; the New Hampshire Local Government Center; the New Hampshire Telephone Association; Union Communications; BayRing Communications; segTEL, Inc.; New England Cable and Telecommunications Association, Inc.; Sprint Spectrum, L.P. and Nextel Communications of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.; the N.H. Department of Justice representing the N.H. Department of Transportation; the Office of Consumer Advocate; and members of the public.

Participants in the technical session reached agreement on a preliminary procedural schedule for the docket. The key issues raised in the course of the prehearing conference will be addressed in order of priority. The first priority issue identified and agreed upon was that of utility pole/facility installation and removal and related safety and reliability concerns. The prioritization and grouping of other issues relevant to the docket will be determined in future technical sessions.

The following preliminary schedule was proposed:

November 18, 2005	Suggestions from interested parties to Staff for initial data requests
November 29, 2005	Staff data requests to Parties
December 20, 2005	Responses to Staff data requests
December 28, 2005	Suggestions from interested parties to Staff for prioritization and grouping of issues
January 6, 2006	Second technical session (9:00 a.m.)

During the second technical session, the Parties and Staff plan to discuss the responses to the first set of data requests, as well as to develop a recommendation on the process of addressing the remainder of the issues raised in the Commission's Order of Notice. Staff will report the results of that technical session in January.

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission approve the preliminary procedural schedule outlined above. I am available at 603.271.6030 if there are any questions about the foregoing

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynn Fabrizio  
Staff Attorney

cc Service List